

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

To correct misnumbering of claims, claims 24 (second instance) - 39 have been renumbered 25-40.

22. (Currently Amended) A network storage system comprising:

a virtual file system ("VFS") for storing file system information for a single file system, wherein a client of said network storage system accesses said VFS over a network to manage a plurality of files of said single file system, and wherein said client receives a storage resource locator ("SRL") from said VFS to access a file in said single file system; and

a plurality of storage centers, located in geographically disparate locations from each other and said client and coupled to said client through a public access network, each of said storage centers for storing a plurality of files for said single file system, wherein said client of said network storage system transmits said SRL to one of said storage centers over said public access network to download files over said public access network, and wherein SRL comprises information to access a storage center over said public access

network and comprises an unique identifier to uniquely identify a file stored at one of said storage centers.

23. (Previously Presented) The network storage system of claim 22, further comprising a storage port for accessing, at a client, said virtual file system and said storage centers.
24. (Previously Presented) The network storage system of claim 23, further comprising at least one additional storage port for accessing said virtual file system and said storage centers in the event of a failover condition of said storage port.
25. (Previously Presented) The network storage system of claim 22, wherein said storage centers comprise:
- a plurality of distributed object storage managers (DOSMs) for receiving requests to access said storage center; and
- storage cluster, comprising a plurality of intelligent storage nodes, for storing files of said network storage system and for servicing access requests from said DOSMs.
26. (Currently Amended) The network storage system of claim 24 25, further comprising a multi-cast protocol for maintaining file information at said DOSMs regarding files stored in said intelligent storage nodes.

27. (Currently Amended) The network storage system of claim ~~24~~ 25, wherein said DOSMs further comprise a data cache for caching at least a subset of files stored in said intelligent nodes.
28. (Currently Amended) The network storage system of claim ~~26~~ 27, further comprising a load balancing fabric for selecting a DOSM for an access request based on demand to access said storage center, and for caching data for files in high demand in said data caches of said DOSMs.
29. (Currently Amended) The network storage system of claim ~~22~~ 23, further comprising a dynamic failover mechanism for servicing access requests from a disparate storage center in the event that a failure occurs in another one of said storage centers.
30. (Previously Presented) The network storage system of claim 1, further comprising a content delivery network coupled to said network storage system.
31. (Currently Amended) A method for storing files in a network storage system, said method comprising the steps of:
- storing file system information in a virtual file system ("VFS") for a single file system;
- receiving a request from a client at said VFS to access a file in said network storage system;

generating at said VFS, in response to said request from said client, a storage resource locator ("SRL");

storing a plurality of files for said single file system in a plurality of storage centers, said storage centers located in geographically disparate locations from each other;

coupling said storage centers to said client through a public access network;

transmitting, from said client to one of said storage centers, over a public access network, said SRL, wherein said SRL comprises information to access a storage center over said public access network and comprises an unique file identifier to uniquely identify a file stored at one of said storage centers; and

downloading, over said public access network, said file identified by said SRL from said storage center identified to said client.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 31, further comprising accessing, at a client, said virtual file system and said storage centers using a storage port.
33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 31, further comprising said virtual file system and said storage center in the event of a failover condition of said storage port from at least one additional storage port.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 31, wherein downloading said file from said storage center comprises:
- receiving a request for access to said storage center;
- selecting one of a plurality of distributed object storage managers (DOSMs) to service said request; and
- accessing an intelligent storage node from said DOSM selected to service said request.
35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~ 34, further comprising issuing commands from a multi-cast protocol to maintain file information at said DOSMs regarding files stored in said intelligent storage nodes.
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~ 34, further comprising caching at least a subset of files stored in said intelligent nodes at said DOSMs.
37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~ 34, further comprising:
- selecting a DOSM for a download request based on demand to access said storage center; and
- caching data for files in high demand in said DOSMs.
38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 31, further comprising servicing access requests from a disparate storage center in the event that a failure occurs in said storage center.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~30~~ 31, further comprising accessing said storage center from a content delivery network.
40. (Currently Amended) A network storage system comprising:
- virtual file system ("VFS") for storing file system information for a single file system, wherein a client of said network storage system accesses said VFS over a network to manage a plurality of files of said single file system, and wherein said client receives a storage resource locator ("SRL") from said VFS to access a file in said single file system; and
- a storage center, coupled to said client through a public access network, for storing a plurality of files for said single file system, wherein said client of said network storage system transmits said SRL to said storage center over said public access network to download files over said public access network, and wherein SRL comprises information to access said storage center over said public access network and comprises an unique file identifier to uniquely identify a file stored at said storage center.